

Dr Owen expected to postpone visit to Rhodesia

The planned visit to Rhodesia later this month by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, now seems unlikely to take place until prospects about a settlement become clearer.

Smith party split upsets timing

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, is having second thoughts about Rhodesia. Instead of proceeding at full tilt, in the hope of a quick settlement, he has decided to slow down the pace. Although he said yesterday that he has not finally made up his mind, he will probably not go to southern Africa later this month, but defer his visit until the prospects become a little clearer.

The sense of gloom about Rhodesia in Whitehall, never far from the surface, is breaking through again. The United States, which is obviously the leading power in the Anglo-American enterprise despite the formal legal position, is counselling caution. Accordingly Dr Owen has decided to take stock.

Several important elements may become clearer in the coming weeks. First, the dust caused by the split in the ruling Rhodesian Front and the return of the Rev Ndabani Sithole, who may attract popular support.

Nevertheless, Mr Smith is still trying it, and while his manoeuvring goes on, less attention will be given to the Anglo-American consultations on drawing up a new constitution.

Dr Owen will have a report from Mr Michael Gove, the Foreign Office official in charge of these consultations.

Yesterday's meetings before and after lunch were held in government offices but Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, did not join in discussions. He is expected to see the group soon.

Lusaka: Zambia has made plans to call in foreign forces if they are needed to help repulse attack from Rhodesia and has accepted in principle offers of military support from countries including Somalia and Cuba, President Kaunda said.

Moreover, the hardening attitude of the Patriotic Front and its endorsement by the Organization of African Unity at the rightist meeting of an independent Zimbabwe, have not made the task of negotiation any easier.

Mr Nkomo, who is growing in influence and has an effective fighting force behind him, has endorsed the principles of his own, however, which will clearly be another factor in the equation.

In these changing and confusing circumstances, Dr Owen's feeling that it would be wiser to postpone his African visit is understandable. He still intends to visit southern Africa at an early date. But his thinking is turning away from a quick solution and more towards ways in which more modestly perhaps, the British Government can bring a constructive influence

to bear in shaping events which have their own momentum.

Frederick Cleary writes from Salisbury: The Anglo-American consultative team, led by Mr Graham, the US State's Louis

United States Ambassador to Zambia had talks yesterday with senior government officials. Both envoys arrived in the Rhodesian capital late on Thursday from Lusaka via Johannesburg.

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The President did not name the nations from which he was expecting aid. But he told a press conference: "When the time comes, we have alerted one or two countries to ask for military aid... we have selected them and they are ready to come." —Reuter.

Dar es Salaam: President Nyerere of Tanzania will discuss southern Africa with President Carter at Camp David next month and will also meet Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister and Mr Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica, in their own capitals for talks on the same subject, it was announced here. —AP.

Sithole conversion, page 4

Smith conversion

HOME NEWS

Press Council attacks union 'censorship' over Grunwick affair

Press freedom and freedom of expression are easily lost and difficult to recover, newspaper industry unions were told yesterday.

The warning came in a Press Council statement on incidents at *The Observer* and *The Sun* when printing workers objected to material which the editors proposed to publish referring to the Grunwick affair. The council said the incidents were "blatant and inexcusable instances of press censorship".

The Observer, proposed, on June 26, to publish an advertisement by the National Association for Freedom. The machine minders' chapel (office branch) of the National Graphical Association and the machine operatives' chapel of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Nasopa) protested at the reference to the Grunwick dispute in the advertisement and production was delayed for seven hours with the loss of some 250,000 copies.

Eventually, the advertisement was carried but the newspaper also published a statement of the printing workers' objections which, after criticizing the advertisement, stated: "But as responsible trade unionists we feel the advertisement should stand in the cause of democratic press freedom."

In *The Sun* incident on July 1, two officials of the NGA chapel objected to a leading article on the Grunwick affair.

The Press Council said: "Because of an ambiguity, a change in wording was made, but the subsequent finding that a line of type had been removed from the leader, in consequence the newspaper was published without the leader and when an attempt was made to publish an explanation for the black space some members of the NGA refused to file it. The leader was published in the following day's issue. A request by NGA chapel officials that the

newspaper should publish a disclaimer alongside was refused. The council deprecates these blatant and inexcusable instances of press censorship which constitute a grave danger to the freedom of the press as, indeed, the NGA machine minders' chapel in *The Observer* seems to have recognized after the stoppage had occurred."

The council fully understands that members of trade unions in the newspaper industry may consider themselves to have a special concern in the contexts of advertising and editorial matter which they wish to publish but this is no justification for taking advantage of a privileged position simply because they have advance information or what the newspaper intends to publish.

The Press Council said the rights of chapels or unions were the same as those of the public. They were entitled to make representations to the editor without interfering with production. If not satisfied they were free to complain to the Press Council. The Council would then conduct an impartial inquiry through its complaints committee, a body comprising equal numbers of press and non-press members.

A statement issued after such an inquiry received wide publicity in the newspaper concerned and elsewhere, the council said, and was so worded as to effect a remedy for any grievance found to be justified.

Interference with the production of a newspaper on grounds of objection to its contents did not justify a demand for the publication of a simultaneous disclaimer and was not an industrial issue. It was a grave attack on freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

"These are freedoms which are as important to the trade unions as they are to the press and the public in general. They are freedoms which are easily lost but once lost they are very difficult to recover."

No Home Office inquiry into ex-boxer's death

By Our Home Affairs Reporter
The Home Office has decided against holding an inquiry into the death of Mr Liddle Towers, the former boxer who died last year after his arrest by the police in Birley, Tyne and Wear.

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, yesterday saw Mrs Marion Woods, Mr. Towers' sister, Mr. Giles Radice, MP for Chester-le-Street, and Mrs Woods' solicitor to discuss the case. Mr. Towers' death has caused controversy in the North-east where a jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide. A campaign has been running for a public inquiry.

Prison action ends

The four-week work-to-rule by prison officers at Bedford prison was called off yesterday. The dispute, over overtime payments, delayed visits at Bedford, Huntingdon, Northampton and Cambridge Crown courts. A Home Office team will visit the prison to examine staffing arrangements.

Jury told poem 'no lavatory limerick'

A poem and illustration in *Gay News*, the newspaper for homosexuals, which is alleged to have been a blasphemous libel, was no lavatory limerick, Mr Geoffrey Robinson, for the defence, told the jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. He added: "This is a genuine expression of boy one man came to love God."

Gay News and Dennis Lemon, aged 32, its editor, have denied a charge of publishing a blasphemous libel concerning the Christian religion, namely an obscene poem and illustration glorifying Christ in His life and crucifixion."

The poem, by Professor James Kirkup, entitled "The love that dares to speak His name", was written as if by a homosexual Roman centurion describing his feelings towards Christ after His body was taken from the cross.

Mr. Robinson said the duty of the jury was not to decide whether the prosecution had proved its case. He continued: "The prosecution is seeking to use the criminal law

Police evict women from Ministry of Defence

By Michael Horrell

About twenty women protesting against the release of Thomas Holdsworth, the guardman in the recent sex case, ran past security guards into the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall yesterday.

A woman of 23 who said she was 100 months pregnant was among those evicted by police about 15 minutes later. She was discharged after an examination at Westminster Hospital.

The incident occurred at the end of a march from Trafalgar Square to Whitehall by Women Against Rape, the protest organization. Its members broke up a High Court hearing last month when Lord Justice Roskill, who presided in the Holdsworth case, was sitting with two other judges.

The women reached the third floor of the ministry building and disrupted a meeting before the police arrived. Some resisted but there were no arrests.

Miss Ruth Hall, one of the women involved, said they were attempting to find Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, to ask him to appear at a public "trial" in Trafalgar Square on July 16.

Women Against Rape say they have "summoned" Lord Justice Roskill, Mr Justice Wien and Mr Justice Slynn, the three Holdsworth case judges, to appear with senior Cabinet members.

Guardsmen Holdsworth, aged 19, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for indecently assaulting a girl of 17 and causing her grievous bodily harm. That was reduced by the Court of Appeal to a suspended sentence of six months.

Miss Hall said they would be considering a complaint against the police action yesterday. She added: "This campaign is going to continue."



Members of the Women Against Rape organization after the demonstration.

Guardsman gets seven years for armed rape

A young Guardsman who raped, robbed and kidnapped a housewife, aged 42, and drove her 150 miles at gunpoint, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for seven years.

The court was told that after her ordeal, she was so frightened of visitors that she had made a fortress of her home, with chains, padlocks and bolts on doors.

He was sentenced to terms of seven years for the rape and gun charges, five years for kidnapping and robbery, and four for the ammunition charges, all to run concurrently.

Mr Michael Hill, for the prosecution, said Mrs X lived in Camberley, Surrey. Guardsman Langley, due to pass our from Farnham depot four days before the offences, stole the ammunition, drew out his rifle and left the camp without leave.

He called at another woman's home first on the pretext of seeking directions. She told the police when she saw the rifle but by then he was at Mrs X's home.

Guardsman Langley told her to stop the car near a public house in

Mrs X answered the doorbell

to find Guardsman Langley pointing the gun at her. He forced his way in, demanded the keys of her car, then forced her into the bedroom while still holding the rifle. He took £26 from her purse and told her to drive the car to Andover.

Before leaving she left a note for her husband saying: "I have been taken by a man from the IRA. Do not inform anyone until we are safe."

Mr Hill said that then began the journey which was to end in Anglesey, where she was again raped.

Guardsman Langley told her a bogus story about a non-existent wife and children having been raped and murdered in Rhodesia, said he was getting his own back, and spoke also of contract killing in the United States.

Mrs X escaped when Guardsman Langley told her to stop the car near a public house in

Anglesey. She found help in a house and her car number was given to police.

Guardsman Langley was seen by the police driving erratically and stopped. Inspector Melvyn Williams and Police Constable Wynford Davies, who were commendable by the judge for their bravery, leapt on Guardsman Langley, and the rifle, loaded and cocked with the safety catch on, was recovered from the back of the car. The bayonet was found in the caravan.

Major Guy Sayle, a company commander at the Guards depot, said that Guardsman Langley had been a perfectly satisfactory recruit, apparently determined to make his army career a success.

Mr John Burt, QC, for the defence, said Guardsman Langley's main aim that day had been to see his father. His actions demonstrated naivety, immaturity and lack of insight into the consequences.

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HOME NEWS

Schools Green Paper rewritten after a rejection by Cabinet

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
After at least half a dozen redraftings the Green Paper on schools in England and Wales, submitted by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, was rejected by the Cabinet.

It is believed to be the first Cabinet rejection of a Green Paper. It was felt to be impractical, too expensive, lacking in coherence and style, over-long, and radically unsound.

Mrs Williams, who was told to take the Green Paper back to her department, took it largely upon herself to rewrite it with the help of a senior official. On Thursday a shorter, final version was completed and is now with the printers. It is expected to be ready to be published, only slightly behind schedule, during the week after next.

The Cabinet's objection to the original "final" version was not on the ground of policy — there is very little new policy contained in the document — mainly on aesthetic and tactical grounds. It wanted a tougher approach, the line believed to

be favoured by Mr James Hamilton, the Permanent Secretary, and not so much of the kid-gloved, almost deliberately obfuscating approach favoured by Mrs Williams.

So many ministerial and official hands had been at the discussion document by the time that it went to the Cabinet's home affairs committee, that it resembled, in the words of one Whitsall source, "more of a dog's dinner than a good rich broth".

It did, however, manage to pass the home affairs committee, chaired by Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, but the Cabinet, which was chaired by the Prime Minister, found it too much to stomach.

Mr Callaghan, who initiated the great debate on education with his speech at Ruskin College, Oxford, last October, has been taking a close interest in the progress of the controversial document which has emerged as a result of the debate, bearing in mind too, no doubt, that it could prove to be the foundation of an Education Act to replace that of 1944.

Direct elections storm gathers momentum

By Michael Hatfield

Labour's gathering storm over direct elections to the European Parliament will be further clouded next week when party policy-makers discuss down the highly critical 2 of the European Community.

Although the document has yet to be approved by the full national executive committee, there is little doubt that the left-dominated NEC will sanction its contents and a subsequent debate at the party's annual conference in October.

Faced with the Government's determination over the direct elections Bill, the document states that nothing should be done to increase the powers of the European Assembly. It argues that the Labour Party must ensure that clauses already preventing any increase or changes in the powers of the European Assembly, re-written into any legislation authorizing direct elections.

The main objective of the opponents of the EEC, who yesterday expressed delight at the size of their vote in the Commons debate on Thursday, is to get a two-thirds mandate at the annual conference protesting at the operation of the European Community and all that flows from it.

Incorporated in the draft document, which goes before a joint meeting of the party's home and international committee on Wednesday, is the demand that any powers must be the subject of a referendum. The document attempts to mount the party against a system of proportional representation which is enshrined in the government's agreement with the Liberal Party. It recognises that

the needs and electoral history of other members of the European Parliament will be further clouded next week when party policy-makers discuss down the highly critical 2 of the European Community.

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Writ on council over 50 houses

A writ has been served on

Southwark Council, London, in

an attempt to stop it demolishing

a row of terrace houses in

Mansfield Street, Peckham.

Tenants of 50 houses

resisted by the council plans

to build a supermarket and a

car park on the site of their

homes are seeking a High Court

injunction to restrain Southwark from demolishing or gutting the houses.

Calls for a public inquiry on

the future of Mansfield Street

have been supported by Mr Silkin, the Attorney General, who is also the local MP.

men rescued

Five seamen were rescued by

air in the North Sea yesterday

after abandoning their

long German coast, Eva

ne, which had collided with

Spanish ship off the Suffolk

coast.

Fishermen's watchdog

Fishermen in northeast England are getting a patrol boat to protect them from Scottish trawlers during the winter sprats season after complaints that the Scots are driving them out.

On admissions, the booklet says that many local authorities were handling a high pro-

portion of emergencies, which could lead to an uneconomic use of resources. Health and social service authorities should establish a procedure for assessing an elderly person's needs before admission. When residents were admitted as an emergency they should be assessed as soon as possible afterwards.

Various forms of support in the home, day care, sheltered housing tenancy, attendance at a day hospital for rehabilitative treatment or even a short term of care in hospital were among the options open.

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OVERSEAS

Harsh Albanian attack signals the end of special link with China

From Dessa Trevisan

Belgrade, July 8

The alliance between China and Albania, called to life 16 years ago by Soviet imperialism, the common enemy of both countries, seems to have broken up.

Albania has now launched an ideological attack on China's theory of the revolutionary nature of the Third World, accusing it of betraying true Marxism-Leninism and of propagating ideas which are having "catastrophic consequences" for the revolutionary cause of the proletariat throughout the world.

The attack, carried by the Albanian party newspaper *Zeri i Popullit* yesterday, did not mention China by name. But the long dispute was clearly directed at China and reflected Albania's growing dissatisfaction with the way things were going in China since the purging of the radicals.

Even before a certain coolness was noticeable as Peking began to mend its fences with the United States and, from the Albanian point of view, worse still with President Tito, Yugoslav revisionism is anathema in Tirana, though relations on the state level have improved in recent years. The Albanian leadership maintains, however, that there can be no compromise over ideological issues.

Recently, Peking appears to have added insult to injury by inviting President Tito on a state visit which shows clearly the reasons for the timing of the Albanian attack on Peking.

Although trouble between Peking and Tirana has been simmering for some time the *Zeri i Popullit* attack goes way beyond previous hints of criticism.

The Albanian party organ discredited Peking's theory that one super power was less dangerous than the other or that the Third World represented a shield against both. Such a theory, the Albanians asserted, not only ignored the contradictions between the two rival social systems—capitalism and socialism—but was outright opportunistic, anti-Marxist and dangerous as it called upon the

oppressed millions to abandon the revolution.

There was a clear attack on China's practice of lumping together under the heading of anti-imperialist allies Arab oil sheikhs, General Pinochet of Chile and President Mobutu of Zaïre.

The theory propounded by Peking that the Third World represented the world revolution's defence against imperialism, was now challenged by the Albanians because it created an illusion that "a cloak was found under which nations can shelter against the threat of superpowers".

There was another rebuke for China implicit in the article's rejection of the principle that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend".

The United States and the Soviet Union were equally dangerous to all people in striving to extend their domination, the newspaper said.

"He was sufficiently alert mentally to speak individually to a hundred or so envoys and charge", one Western diplomat, who was at the meeting, said. Mr Brezhnev's authority had eroded much of his own and his party's popularity, at least in the cities.

After this amazing electoral triumph, which surpassed even Mr Bhutto's expectations, thanks to the large number of ballot manipulations by his gun-toting party members and subversive district and provincial officials, he brushed aside Opposition protests and declared that there was no question of a fresh election.

The nine-party Pakistan National Alliance had however foreseen the ballot rigging and was ready to back the Albanians if they were to attack through the use of powerful drugs.—UPI

Envoy finds Soviet President in fine health

From Hasan Akhtar

Islamabad, July 8

Moscow, July 8.—President Brezhnev showed at a meeting with the diplomatic corps today that recent reports of his deteriorating health are "total nonsense", western diplomatic sources said.

They said that the President received all of the ambassadors

stationed in Moscow at the Kremlin for an hour and 15 minutes and was on his feet

during the entire time.

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At the same time, it also

reveals that there may have

been very strong domestic

reasons for such an attack. Last

year, Mr Enver Hoxha, the

party leader, organized a

thorough purge and it may be

that his policy has once again

been challenged.

Although the article is equally

hostile to the Soviet Union and

the United States, it is believed

that Mr Hoxha is under

pressure from some sections of

the regime who feel encouraged

by China's rapprochement with

the United States and would like

to see an Albanian opening to

the West.

According to the latest pro-

jections of Asahi Shiribun,

which is noted for accurate

surveys, the ruling party is

expected to lose three to seven

crucial seats to the slightly less

conservative forces in the

Opposition.

In contrast to the charged

atmosphere of seven months

ago, when an election to the

Lower House of the Diet was

dominated by the Lockheed

scandal, not burning issue has

been raised.

Illustrating that the Lock-

heed controversy has passed

into political history in Japan,

Japan's rising Liberal Demo-

cratic Party will try to absorb

successful independent candi-

dates into its ranks rather than

enter a coalition alliance with

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"A working arrangement

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parties in Parliament would

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compromise on basic policy and

we will attempt to avoid it at

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"We are confident of winning a

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ents will join the party."

As more than 78 million

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SPORT

Football

Dougan warns League that players may vote to strike

After the recent breakdown of the new deal for footballers, Derek Dougan, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, said at a meeting yesterday evening that the players may decide to strike. He said: "We are proud that we have never in our history resorted to strike action. But we can't rule out the possibility of withdrawal of labour."

The 2,250 members of the PFA will get the chance to vote on what action to take. The committee met to discuss tactics after 15 regional clubs had voted to vote by Football League clubs to concede the right of a player to move at the end of his contract with substantial compensation for the club.

At the end of a six-hour meeting, the secretary, Cliff Lloyd, said: "Following the rejection of the proposed deal by the clubs, the Professional Footballers' Association, said at a meeting yesterday evening that the players may decide to strike. He said: "We are proud that we have never in our history resorted to strike action. But we can't rule out the possibility of withdrawal of labour."

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A series of meetings will be arranged as soon as possible and the players' support will be sought to take whatever action they consider necessary."

Mr Lloyd said that he envisaged eight regional meetings which he hoped would take place before the end of the season.

Sunderland have signed Rostrom, an Arsenal winger, at a fee of £40,000. Rostrom played for Sunderland and England boys in 1971/72 and was earmarked for Sunderland but found Arsenal's offer more attractive. His transfer in that England side,



Derek Dougan: Proud PFA's unmilitant past.

Sunderland, elected to join Sunderland, but his football career has been interrupted because of a broken leg.

Leeds United yesterday completed the signing of Arthur Graham, an American 24-year-old former Scotland under-23 winger, for a fee of £125,000.

Rugby Union

League system 'could benefit England'

English rugby could benefit from a league system, Sir Anthony Wharton, the new president of the Rugby Football Union, told the annual general meeting in London last night.

"We should look further at merit tables," said Sir Anthony, "and we should not be afraid to discuss the possibility of forming leagues, although the very word is anathema to many people." He could see signs, however, to his revolutionary suggestion. "The difficulties about leagues would be arranging fixtures because amateur clubs like to choose their own opponents."

Making his inaugural speech, Sir Anthony, said he hoped to carry on the good work done by his immediate predecessor, Dickie Jeeps. "He proved an inspiration last year to both selectors and players and must build on his laurels."

Sir Anthony added that one of his priorities was to establish a rugby museum and continue the development of Twickenham. "Perhaps the facilities could be used to a greater degree," he said. "It also called for moves to be made to enable teenagers to continue playing rugby after they had left school."

British Isles need a good deal from new pack

Christchurch, New Zealand, July 8.—An air of confidence permeated the British Lions' camp on the eve of the second international against New Zealand at Lancaster Park here. The base was on the team's recent improved form and the problems surrounding the All Blacks' match preparations.

Following the retirement of Grant Batty yesterday from all first-class rugby, Bruce Robertson, a centre, withdrew from tomorrow's match due to a sprained ankle. The team's spirit is still excellent and the boys know they will have to go out there and try even harder if that's possible," Jack Gleeson, the coach, said.

Among the spectators at the New Zealand stadium were the French team's coach, Pierre Villeneuve, who is remembered here for a mighty 70-yard penalty goal against New Zealand in the 1968 series. After their loss in South Africa last year, the French had to back to doing what they have always done best—out-matching the opposing team through the forwards.

The Lions' pack is far stronger than the one that took the field for the Wellington International after a major reshuffle, Duggan, the 6 ft 8 in prop, and Collier are the only remaining forwards from that match.

The inclusion of Quinlan at flank forward in preference to Trevor Evans should ensure the Lions more ball in the line-outs. In the first international the lock, Martin, and the wing, were outplayed by their All Black counterparts, Haden and Oliver.

The Lions need their share of the ball from set play if their game is to improve. The back line, under Phil Bennett, at stand-off half, should have the

Tennis

Lloyd's variety of stroke ensures a place in final

David Lloyd, the British Davis Cup player, beat a young American, Paul Day, 6-4, 6-4, in the semi-final round of men's singles in the Irish tennis championships at Fitzwilliam Club, Dublin, yesterday. His opponent in today's final will be Sean Sorenson, an American-based Irishman, and seeded No. 2.

Lloyd's experience and greater variety of shots against the 18-year-old Kelley, who had won the tournament in the third game of the first set, he broke service with a terrific smash. Kelley, who competed in the junior event at Wimbledon, broke back right away, but Lloyd, the No. 1 seed, broke again to love in the seventh game.

The decisive break in the second set also came in the seventh game, in which Kelley had two double faults and failed with a backhand shot.

In today's final of the women's singles, the top seed, Maria Bueno, will play the 19-year-old Australian, Lynette de Savary.

The 27-year-old Brazilian stroked a straight service win in 30 minutes in the semi-final round against another Australian, Susan Saliba, the No. 4 seed. Miss Bueno:

Racing

Fluellen an irresistible attraction in Goodwood date for Relative Ease

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Fluellen, unlucky not to win the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster in March, as well as the Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown Park last month, can compensate his trainer, Harry Wragg, by winning John Smith's Magnet Cup at York this afternoon. Fluellen has been heavily backed in the betting markets and it is clear throughout that the punters are behind him.

Not waiting today is more experienced in the art of preparing a horse for a valuable handicap than Wragg; yet this race has eluded him. He has had his eyes on it this season since the second week in June, when Fluellen finished fourth in the Brigadier Gerard Stakes at Sandown Park behind Yellow. Afterwards Wragg told me that he intended to let Fluellen miss Royal Ascot and to train him instead for today.

Yesterday our Newmarket Correspondent met me that Fluellen is in fine fettle and perfectly sound.

Fluellen's bid back at Sandown Park is no mention of it in Raceform or Timeform. Fluellen was hampered twice once just before the turn into the straight, but he has now recovered.

Fluellen is the only entry in the Magnet Cup, so he is

and Review are tough opponents. But races of this nature are seldom won by a horse carrying a big penalty, and that is the reason why I do not fancy the chances of either Air Trooper or Review, who have 16b. more to carry than when they last ran ago.

Review is a touch better than Air Trooper for winning the Hong Kong Handicap at Sandown Park eight days ago; Review for his success in the Andy Capp Handicap at Redcar last month. Air Trooper is a greatly-improved horse, but he is getting only 14b. from Flannel, who is 16b. behind him.

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Sacrifice and reconciliation

Radio
Break
Garden

Tom Mann

The characters in Sir Tippett's opera, *The Ice Break*, first performed on March 5, 1974, in London's Royal Opera House, which consists of four parts, is "Olympion Nording", a "black champion". Sport, 11.15, "Ice Break". Of us who sometimes News, 11.15, contemporary opera's dependence on tradition and romance. *Ice Break*, 12.15, themes can only be final day. Four operas treat some News. Human ideal in a competition, 1.30, 2.15, most clearly of all Union, 1.30, "Ice Break". It takes land v. The now, maybe, may grow, 1.30, 2.15, it clearly discusses the human Australian, 2.15, seriously, movingly, 2.00, 2.15, ultimate resolution of preoccupation. The last words are said Radio 1.

Translated from Goethe:

"I will always be brought

in pain, glorious image of

Grecy, friend afar, from within or

News, 9.15, "It would not be a

9.30, Grade 8, if Tippett had derived

1. Berlin, the theme from an antique

Reading, 11.15, "The Odysseus". Jesus' 1.30, Strauss' "Die Fledermaus", Son 7,

Second Test, remains

Australian, 1.30, "Ice Break", takes up and

1.30, 2.15, develops a theme from John Amis' "The Captain", Tippett's Heritage, 1.30, perhaps, the recognition

dissolution, 2.15, of exclusively types, William Basie they were individual

Haydn, the black and white, hetero-

4.55, Oscar and homosexual, agrees

6.40, Cries and sky, "The Ice Break"

of Brainerd, 1.30, black and white, 1.30, 2.15, 3.15, 4.15, 5.15, 6.15, 7.15, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15, 11.15, 12.15, 13.15, 14.15, 15.15, 16.15, 17.15, 18.15, 19.15, 20.15, 21.15, 22.15, 23.15, 24.15, 25.15, 26.15, 27.15, 28.15, 29.15, 30.15, 31.15, 32.15, 33.15, 34.15, 35.15, 36.15, 37.15, 38.15, 39.15, 40.15, 41.15, 42.15, 43.15, 44.15, 45.15, 46.15, 47.15, 48.15, 49.15, 50.15, 51.15, 52.15, 53.15, 54.15, 55.15, 56.15, 57.15, 58.15, 59.15, 60.15, 61.15, 62.15, 63.15, 64.15, 65.15, 66.15, 67.15, 68.15, 69.15, 70.15, 71.15, 72.15, 73.15, 74.15, 75.15, 76.15, 77.15, 78.15, 79.15, 80.15, 81.15, 82.15, 83.15, 84.15, 85.15, 86.15, 87.15, 88.15, 89.15, 90.15, 91.15, 92.15, 93.15, 94.15, 95.15, 96.15, 97.15, 98.15, 99.15, 100.15, 101.15, 102.15, 103.15, 104.15, 105.15, 106.15, 107.15, 108.15, 109.15, 110.15, 111.15, 112.15, 113.15, 114.15, 115.15, 116.15, 117.15, 118.15, 119.15, 120.15, 121.15, 122.15, 123.15, 124.15, 125.15, 126.15, 127.15, 128.15, 129.15, 130.15, 131.15, 132.15, 133.15, 134.15, 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George Hutchinson

As predicted: a bad day for the Liberals, but it is Labour that has bitten the dust

However much Mr David Steel (or, come to think of it, Mr John Pardoe) may care to rationalise, the Liberals have sustained a severe—and predictable—rebuff in the Sutton Valence by-election. True, their humiliation is not complete: they remain in second place, as before. But their vote has suffered a critical collapse, falling from 14,770 to 10,253.

Such a loss of support can scarcely be called a proof of success for the Lib-Lab pact. It is hardly a vote of confidence in the Liberal Party. Without the support of many who previously voted Labour but turned to the Liberals rather than upholding the Tories it would have been much smaller.

It is Labour, of course, that has really bitten the dust at Sutton Valence. The party is discredited and may well be finished for quite some time. It would be irrational to suppose that Mr Callaghan can hold on much longer. Mrs Thatcher's day as Prime Minister draws ever closer.

One can only hope that she and her party are fully prepared for the test—the test of office

and responsibility to which the electors are repeatedly calling them.

The revolt against the Government in one by-election after another can be ascribed to various causes. It does not spring entirely from the failure and consequent rejection of Labour policies, especially the failure to check inflation and to achieve some control over the cost of living, although this is no doubt the main source of Mr Callaghan's misfortunes. Other influences are also at work.

One is a growing repugnance with the far left, which the social democrats have allowed, whether from inertia or complicity, to penetrate the Labour movement up and down the country and indeed to infiltrate the very centre, as we can see by looking at the compositions of the party's National Executive Committee.

Another (and this is not to be underestimated) has been the indignant and continuing sense of outrage provoked by the Wilson resignation honours and subsequent disclosures. Nor can Lord Bradwell's squad

the responsibility firmly on the shoulders of the democratic left, the "socialist generation" and the Fabians and their loss of integrity as a political tradition. Read, too, the latest bulletin from the Social Democratic Alliance, of which he and Mr Douglas Eden are the main proponents.

"We cannot blind ourselves", they say, "to the fact that in the two years since we were established the underlying position has worsened. We all have to recognize, in fighting back that our party now has a large Marxist component which will be difficult to oust or weaken. . . . A senior Cabinet Minister, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, has declared that Marxism has a legitimate place in our party and, more seriously, accepted the appointment of a Trotskyist-Leninist as Youth Officer. . . . The National Executive Committee has decided to take no disciplinary action following the 'infiltration' report of Reg Underhill, our national organizer. The Prime Minister and other moderates are apparently content to let this matter rest."

That is the melancholy truth. If Mr Callaghan were to stir himself sufficiently he could probably check the rot. Beyond a few feeble reprobates and admonitions, he has not chosen to do so.

Why is this? Whence his reluctance? It is because he wishes above everything to remain in office. To do so he is prepared to temporize with the Left, just as he is prepared to accept Liberal support. Politically, he is shameless.

No one would have understood this better than my old friend Tibor Szamuely, whose important achievements and untimely death are now freshly commemorated with the republication, by Ainsworth for Freedom and Enterprise, of his classic essay *Socialism and Liberty*.

Tibor Szamuely, a Soviet citizen who became the producer of British subjects, was a master of our language, his powers of exposition putting most of us to shame. Freedom was his cause. He belonged to that romantic (and often scholarly) élite, the political pamphleteers who are at once the

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Clues to the crossword from ancient Egyptians

Papyrus fragments from Graeco-Roman Egypt continue to add to our knowledge of ancient literature and life. The forty-fifth volume of *Oxyrhynchus Papyri* has recently been published by the Egypt Exploration Society, bringing the number of items in this series to 3,266. The latest volume includes, besides pieces of works already known, some new fragments of lyric verse, tragedy and comedy, and a number of official and private documents of various dates between 63 and 337 AD.

There is also one text, No 3239, of a quite unique character. It is a memorandum for a word-puzzle with which the writer intended to tease a friend or, more probably, a gathering of friends. It is written on the back of two discarded documents glued together, and dates from the later second century AD.

Although it is not completely preserved, enough remains to show the scheme. It is set out in two columns. The left-hand column is a list of nouns and proper names, arranged in alphabetical order by the first letter, and next to each in the right-hand column is a word or phrase that denotes it, describes it, or has some loose association with it. There were 53 items in all.

The words in the first column were evidently to be guessed from the clues in the second, many of which are remarkably like the clues in the simpler sort of modern crossword. For example, "heavy weight" is "lead"; "trusty guide" is "staff"; "for wool" is "spinning-basket"; "foreign city" is "Rome"; "the great hope" is "Isis"; "adorns Alexandria" is "Scarabs"; "gives wealth at own discretion" is "Fortune".

Not all the clues are quite so straightforward. To guess that "rotten fortune" (*sapra tyche*) stood for "bath attendant" (*parachytēs*) one had to be on the alert for anagrams. The solution to "for everyone" is "a garland". Perhaps "for everyone a garland" was a familiar cry on festive occasions—if so, the clue was a plus to be completed again a favourite form of the modern crossword compiler, though he used it reluctantly to show what kind of thing is wanted ("Bottoms up").

In other cases the clue calls for free association. The answer to "I'm thirsty" is "water-carrier", and the answer to "vinegar" is "wine".

Filling the gap...

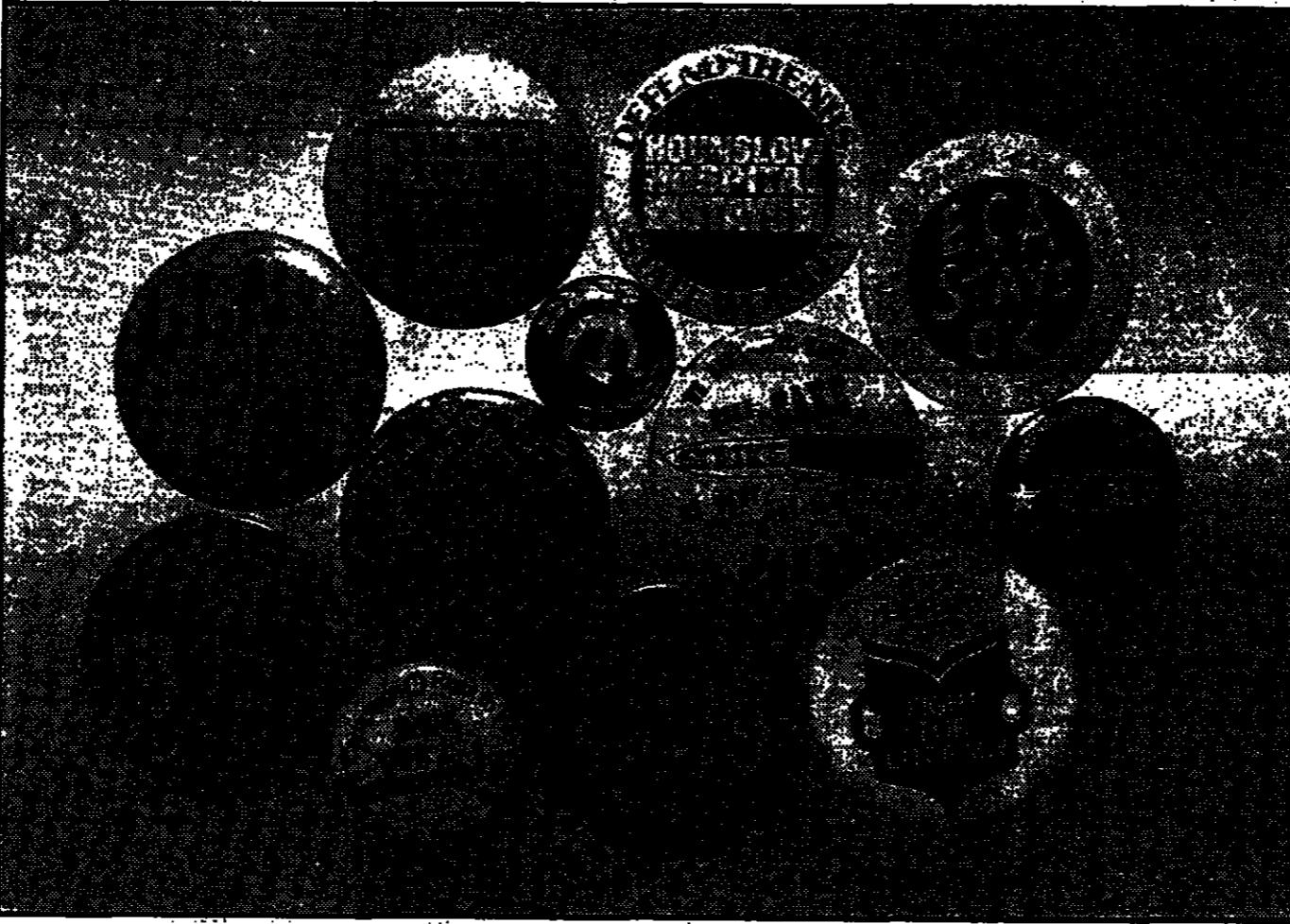
The compiler made a point of having solutions beginning with each letter of the alphabet in order—sometimes several for one letter, but at least one. At the letter *n*, instead of a word with that initial, we find the letter alone, with a blank space in the clues column. The compiler must have been unable to think of a satisfactory word quickly; he went on, meaning to fill the gap later. Presumably, whoever did the puzzle was to be told that the first group of solutions began with alpha, the next with beta, and so on.

It is well known that the ancients amused themselves with riddles, and also with verbal exercises such as palindromes and verses containing every letter of the alphabet. But nothing resembling the new papyrus was hitherto known. With its astonishing anticipations of modern puzzlers' conventions it prompts the reflection so often prompted by the study of ancient literature: there is nothing new under the sun.

Prof M. L. West

* The *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, Volume xv, ed. by A. K. Bowman, M. W. Haslam, S. A. Stephens and M. L. West (Greco-Roman Memoirs, No. 63). Published for the British Academy by the Egypt Exploration Society, 1974.

On the button, or how to pin down your message on other people's lapels



For less than £100 you can put 1,000 people on the streets each proclaiming "Mickey Mouse is a sexist pig" or "Roses have feelings too". Perhaps you might like to tell the world about the Cleethorpes People's Liberation Movement, "Robin Hood rules OK" or "Bring back the airship".

The money will buy not the legendary, even mythical, "remantab" but what might be loosely called "remtabadge". For the age of demonstrations, sit-ins, teach-ins, work-ins, et al has brought with it the campaign badge. Few are the controversies and cause célèbres of the past few years which have not spawned a badge.

In times to come fashionable museums will no doubt hold exhibitions of collections annotating their exhibits with a note on the campaign and its success. Who knows but that a bright young social historian of the year 2007 will base a thesis on the protest movements of the late twentieth-century with an examination of the badges?

He might well begin with the records of a factory in Bethnal Green, East London, which could lay claim to being the largest producer of campaign badges. The Universal Button Company has produced badges for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Young Liberals and the miners' campaign in 1974.

The work remains a minor part of production but has expanded to the point where 500 of one campaign badge or another is being made at one time. There are also export orders. The most constant customers appear to be of the left and especially the International Socialists who sent an emissary last week from outside Greenwich to strike a campaign medal.

Unfortunately, the badges were wanted within 24 hours and the firm could not oblige. The order was not placed before the International Socialists feared the picketing would be over by the time the badges arrived.

The various gay liberation

groups have also built up a constant volume of business and the firm has a separate collection of past orders. Those so inclined have been able to announce "How dare you presume I'm heterosexual" (on a lilac background) or "Take liberties with me".

Political observers will be interested to note that the Liberals among the established political groups appear to be the most badge-conscious and in the past the firm has done work for Mr David Steel, himself.

The advantage to customers lies not only in being able to spread a campaign's message but also in supplementing funds since the badges can be sold at a profit to supporters. They also have the pleasure of constructing slogans which will amuse, grieve and embarrass. Advertising agencies seeking copy writers could fruitfully cast an eye over some of the current badges.

At the moment supporters of the three men facing trial under the Official Secrets Act could saunter down Whitehall telling passing mandarins "I'm a secu-

rity risk" or flash their lapel at a Minister and exhort him to "Tell me your official secrets".

The message though is not always so clear. No one seems to know who wanted "Rock against racism". At the moment "MDC" not guilty right" is being produced, but the firm wonders who MD and C are.

Orders are rarely turned down unless they are obscene—like the recent gentleman who wished to express his sexual aspirations forthrightly—or if the badges refer to an issue considered too contentious.

They were hesitant about one recent order but decided to go ahead. Having made over 500,000 badges to mark the jubilee they were asked in March to make "Stuff the Jubilee" badges. What started as an order for 4,000 has grown now to 48,000 and one of the largest sales of all the campaign badges they have produced.

Stewart Tindall

How Bismarck's editing sent Prussia to war against France



Bismarck: he altered the Ems telegram to anger France.

Gently "pushed their luck" by demanding guarantees from the King of Prussia that he would never again support a German candidate for the Spanish throne.

The Prussian Chancellor, Bismarck, who for his own reasons was quite keen on a war with France, had engineered the Hohenzollern claim. The wind was taken out of Bismarck's sails a few days later, however, when the French wanted an account of the interview was telegraphed to Bismarck in Berlin. This was the Ems telegram, and it was Bismarck's editing of this telegram which led to the outbreak of war.

All the history books recount this event, but few if any tell in detail how Bismarck actually changed the Ems telegram. For instance, Fritz Stern, in his recently-published *Life of Bismarck: Gold and Iron*, merely writes: "Bismarck edited William's account so as to make it appear a humiliating defiance of France"; and most other histories say something similar to what Bismarck actually did is not merely of linguistic interest but also a classic example of "news management" with a purpose.

This was the relevant passage of the message (sent by a Prus-

sian Foreign Ministry official) as Bismarck received it:

As His Majesty had told Count Benedetti that he would not receive from the Prince, His Majesty decided, in respect of the above request, on the advice of Count Eulenburg and myself, not to receive Count Benedetti again, but to inform him that he would not be received. His Majesty had now received from the Prince confirmation of the news which Benedetti had already had from Paris, and that he had nothing further to say to the ambassador.

When Bismarck had finished with the message it read as follows:

His Majesty the King thereupon refused to receive the French ambassador again, and had him informed, through a duly appointed agent, that His Majesty had nothing further to communicate to the ambassador.

This he issued immediately to the press.

It is an interesting example of how, without altering the sense, by a little tautening of the language and the removal of subordinate clauses, virtually any word can be forged into a sword. Bismarck got what he wanted. France, humiliated and affronted, declared war next day.

David Hotham

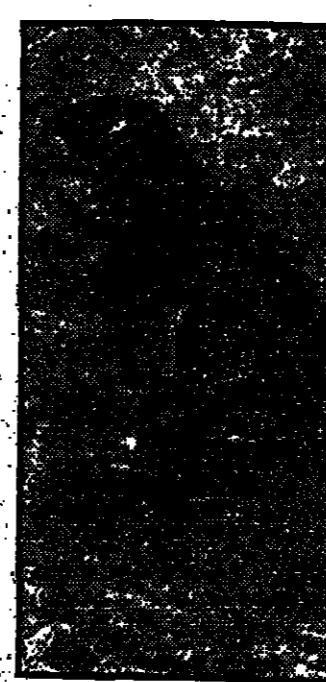
Tidy out

She has not crossed my mind for years
seeing her name in an old address book

I finish.

Christopher Logue

Saving the seals may help us to save ourselves



The first ever photograph of a Mediterranean monk seal, taken by Dr Schulze-Westrum.

the area, while some islets which are particularly favoured by the seals, are completely out of bounds.

The surviving Mediterranean

seals have found sanctuary in the small, uninhabited islands between Crete, Carpathos and the Cyclades. Here Dr Keith Rona, head of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Guelph in Canada, has been waging a one-man battle to save them from extinction.

The professor has often been seen island-hopping by helicopter to explain to the Greek

The duke, wicked uncles, women and a whole lot of millions

A mysterious claimant turning up from California to reclaim an ancient title and an inheritance perhaps not undisputed to £10m sounds the sort of stuff that Victorian romances (or, for that matter, Hollywood dreams) are built on. However, a story to this effect is to be published next year not by a racy publisher of Gothic romances but by *Debrett's Peerage*, the genealogical chronicle and encyclopaedia of the upper classes. It concerns the Duke of Leinster (pronounced "Lester"), the Premier Duke, Marquess and Earl of Ireland: "And his wicked uncles, changes substituted for rightful heirs, impostors locked away from the world for 13 years in a lunatic asylum, vast wealth and the other ingredients of cheap fiction. But in this case it may not be fiction.

The details of the story are dark, tangled and susceptible to summary in short pieces of exposition. They include hair-raising events about the identity and character of the unhappy inmate of Craigmyle. The sixth duke, recorded as having left Eton from 1900 to 1904, died certificate records he was an epileptic from onwards; the school has no child with such a history of epilepsy would be admitted to Eton at time. Diligent readers of *Times* over the past few weeks may have noticed that bounds are hot on this investigative trail.

The supposed duke declared insane in 1909, from that date until his death never left Craigmyle.

The recent official history of the family runs as follows. The fifth duke died in 1893. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Maurice, aged six. While Maurice was a minor, his estates were controlled by his uncles. Just after he came of age in 1909 he was committed as a dangerous lunatic to Craigmyle Asylum in Edinburgh, where he died "unmarried in 1922. Desmond, his brother next in line, had been killed on active service in France in 1916.

Hence the titles passed to the youngest brother, Edward, the seventh duke, had a picturesque track record even for a FitzGerald: three bankruptcies; four wives; in the 1920s, in order to pay off his debts, he sold his life interest in the dukedom to Mallaby Dealey, the founder of the Fifty Shilling Tailor. The seventh duke died in poverty two years ago, a suicide in a Milicino bedsheet. He had been succeeded officially by Gerald, Marquess of Kildare, now the eighth duke: the son of his first marriage, a company chairman who runs a flying school at Oxford airport.

Such is the official line. Enter, pursued by solicitors, genealogists and private detectives, the California claimant. A man died in California in 1967 calling himself Maurice Francis Fitzgerald. He had claimed to be the rightful Duke of Leinster since 1922, although he made the claim only to his immediate family. His son, Leonard, a schoolteacher, aged 50, has inherited his belief that he is the rightful Duke of Leinster and is pursuing the claim. He has spent a year examining the story and photographs of the California claimant, and says: "Our conclusions are that he had an intimate knowledge of the whole Fitzgerald family, and it would be a personal knowledge. Son of the details he knew could possibly have been culled through the conventional channels of research, however diligent."

These are deep waters. Who was the unfortunate man who died in Edinburgh? Do many missing documents indicate an old conspiracy to hide the facts, or are they coincidence? How did the California man know so much about the duke and his family? What was the connection of the King's Royal Rifle Corps into the picture? Why did the California never pursue the claim himself, and leave it to his children? What was the terrible family scandal (legitimacy?) that prevented him from publishing it, and if he was a fraud why did he not make more of it by telling others than his immediate family?

More solid advantages the ancient titles hang on. The answers to these questions, if the late seventh duke was not a rightful heir, he had no right to stay alive his inheritance the Fifty Shilling Tailor. This would be a claim against the Mallaby Dealey family for the money they had had from the Leinster estate over the past half century. The life interest sold by the late duke was worth about £1,000 a week.

Philip Howard

fishermen why they should not exterminate the seals. His arguments are quite impressive as Prof Ronald believes that the seals holds the key to man's survival in the sea.

There are strong physiological similarities, for instance, between the seal and man. It is therefore hoped that research may one day reveal the secret of what is known as the seal's "diving reflex": a seal, in fact, can take seven breaths on the surface, then dive as deep as 650ft, stay below for almost 30 minutes, then shoot back to the surface without suffering any ill effects.

This means that although the seal's body is deprived of oxygen, it suffers no damage. If this "reflex" mechanism could be copied, it would be a significant breakthrough in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

Another unusual feature in the seal is its ability to detoxify itself of much of the chemical pollutants and pesticides that eventually find their way to the sea.

This purifying mechanism is probably located in the seal's liver. If it could be copied, it might provide the answer to mankind's long-standing battle against the toxic effect of pollution.

Scientists are now carrying out research on this aspect.

Dr Ronald is in favour of a worldwide campaign by scientists to save the Mediterranean seal, so that it does not disappear like the Caribbean seal seen by Christopher Columbus as early as 1494, which recently became extinct. He said: "If the seal cannot survive in the Mediterranean, then man himself may not be able to."

Mario Modiano

the duke,
uncles, w
a whole
of millions

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AVE THEY THE WILL TO GOVERN?

from former Labour supporters as the best means of defeating the Tory.

That theory has not now been proved, but it has at least been kept alive. The Liberal lost votes and won rather smaller percentage of the poll; but he fared much better than Labour in face of the Tory tide. Not only has the Liberal hold on the second place been retained but the lead over Labour has been doubled. That is certainly consistent with a number of voters moving from Labour to Liberal as others have switched from Liberal to Conservative. This does not offer the Liberals electoral justification for the pact, but it does mean that they can still hope to attract radical Labour votes in critical seats where that could mean all the difference. They have done well enough at Saffron Walden not to want to break the pact up immediately, but not so well that they dare risk an early election.

Despite the poor Labour performance at Saffron Walden, therefore, the Government's chances of a further breathing space have in fact been improved. The question is whether they are in any condition to use it. The rebels they are receiving at the hands of the unions may turn out to be more damaging politically than economically. The chances of an effective phase three are remote, but with the present levels of unemployment and business activity that may not lead to such extravagant wage increases as follow. That is not the mark of a government that retains the will to govern.

Mr John Ford, who specializes in foreign and security policy, writes:

Mr Carter's other by-elections since the Times' first test of the theory, may have more contests have been in the offing. The supposed 974 Saffron Walden from him, he might now in the light of what was published in the previous run ahead of March 11, 1976, attract tactical voter from abroad?

R CARTER UNSETTLES THE RUSSIANS

democracies are heading into inevitable decline, that the Russians are the ascendant power, and that the main aim of east-west relations is to negotiate the least unfavourable shift in the world balance. Mr Carter has unsettled them not only because they fear instability in eastern Europe and among their own nationalities but because it hurts their pride and puts them on trial before world opinion. The Russian leaders are emotional people. They believe in their military power and other achievements entitled them to a certain respect. Dr Kissinger understood this. Mr Carter, they feel, does not. He humiliates them.

Mr Carter is, of course, taking certain risks. A fractious and resentful Soviet Union is not going to be easy to live with and could be dangerous if emotions rise too high. Feelings do play a role in political behaviour. There are also dangers in encouraging the more primitive elements in the Soviet hierarchy during the struggle for power over the succession to Mr Brezhnev. But the risks should not be exaggerated. Moreover, Mr Carter tried soft-pedalling human rights for a while and the only thanks he got was the arrest of even more Soviet citizens.

Of course this makes life difficult for the Russian leaders. They are elderly men who do not adapt easily to change. They thought they had established a fairly cosy relationship with the United States in which they were getting the deference due to a great power, and an implicit acknowledgement of their right to dominate certain parts of the world. They thought that the United States would spend longer licking its wounds after Vietnam and Watergate, instead of which it is bouncing back.

They thought their military power would increase their political influence, instead of which it has provoked a reaction against detente in the West.

They thought their ideological influence would increase, instead of which it has waned sharply, especially among the communists and other left-wing forces of western Europe.

In other words, the balance seems to be tilting against them at precisely the moment when they expected it to be doing the opposite, and they are now being blamed for bad relations.

Philip across the left-right boundaries, and if his support is he will be in a far better position than his predecessors, especially if the Soviets are as interested as he is in not merely cutting but actually reducing their weapons.

Other aspects of Mr Carter's policies Moscow cannot be expected to swallow so easily. They are cutting relations with the United States, and Mr Carter wants to sweep away the last vestiges of the old alliance. He has been told that the Western world holds the key to survival in the sea.

FIRM HAND IN BELIZE

pendent. But the United Nations anti-colonial committee would make trouble. Britain has always shrank from a unilateral and open-ended guarantee, and the international force is not visible. In these circumstances neither Mr George Price, the Premier, nor the opposition leaders are prepared to risk independence.

Guatemala clings to a claim that goes back (dubiously) to the Pope in the sixteenth century, and is invalidated by a British presence for 300 years. The only leg of the Guatemalan argument which stands is that in return for agreeing the border in 1859 Britain promised to build a road from Belize to Guatemala City, and never did. It could not be denied—others have suggested a pipeline or a housing scheme in lieu. But Guatemala has no greater claim than that, if any.

Another leg of the negotiations have failed, he said, and the same effect as the British withdrawal from Belize would be the same effect. But there must be some scepticism if Mr Jenkins' analysis is correct.

This purports to be the same as the British withdrawal from Belize (as Mexico did not provide the claim), perhaps with some minor effect of compensation (which has been visisted since 1859) and Belize can become independent with the support of the entire Commonwealth.

Dr Rowlands' report on Belize, most of the United Nations, a large proportion of the Commonwealth, and Britain above all. Indeed, if the agreement could be made to settle the dispute, a common Commonwealth force in Belize for ten or more years, the size could safely become inde-

pendent. But the United Nations anti-colonial committee would make trouble. Britain has always shrank from a unilateral and open-ended guarantee, and the international force is not visible. In these circumstances neither Mr George Price, the Premier, nor the opposition leaders are prepared to risk independence.

Thus, though Guatemala may back down again, the possibility of a new threat will remain. Britain has a solemn responsibility to Belize to ensure that it can become peacefully independent. Happily in this it is wholly of world opinion. Mr Rowlands' report will be awaited with interest.

Deciding what is newsworthy

From Mr Maurice Cheesewright

Sir, As a Conservative peer, I no doubt merit all those charges of being prejudiced, ignorant and now I suppose garrulous, that have been accorded to my kind ever since I succeeded in the House of Lords over 55 years ago.

I have sometimes wondered whether any body of legislators anywhere have ever been subjected to this sort of thing for so long without any apparent result whatever. Of course, there have been numerous discussions, often very long ones, about possible schemes for reform, but none of them have received enough support to constitute a scheme to put before the electorate.

But I reflect that it was during

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reforming the House of Lords

From Lord Gage

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such a discussion in 1946 that a phrase was coined by the Labour Government of the day which has coloured the situation ever since. Lord Morrison of Lambeth, who was in 1946 Lord President of the Council, in his book *Government and Politics*, published in 1956, put it in these words: "The very irrationality of the composition of the House of Lords and its quaintness are safeguards for our modern British Democracy". And so we continue, quaint but pursuing.

Mr Morrison, as he was then, saw clearly something which eventually became clear to anyone who was ever a member of a new chamber for this country, in that the House tends either to be so weak that nobody who is any good would wish to join it, or so strong that it would menace the House of Commons or, perhaps more accurately, the Government of the day. A few months ago, anyone reading Mr Michael Foot's strictures about the so-called intolerable action of a non-elected chamber might have assumed that he would think quite differently about the actions of an elected chamber.

This leads me to the point that I think your previous correspondent may either missed or dodged, namely that even if it was once true that the news was by some indefinable but easily recognizable self-selecting it is no longer so. Therefore unless the journalist is to take a completely moral view of his function it seems inescapable that he should weigh carefully, not merely the superficial balance and accuracy of what he writes, but its context and consequence.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

S recovery accelerating ith more employment nd a sharp fall in prices

Frank Vogl

London, July 8

led by the Federal Reserve Board show that the growth in the money stock continues to be roughly in line with the Fed's targets - and this news has dampened speculation in the market of some tightening of monetary policy.

Citibank in New York announced yesterday that it was maintaining its prime lending rate at 8½ per cent for the time being.

All of these new announcements, most notably the inflation report, helped to raise share prices across a broad front in early trading on Wall Street today, and may also serve to stabilize the dollar, which has recently been under substantial pressure.

The wholesale price index is now 6.2 per cent up on 12 months ago at 194.5 (1967 = 100).

Mr Lance, the White House director of the Office of Management and Budget, noted in an interview published today in *The New York Times*, that it now looks as if the overall economic statistics for the second quarter of this year may prove to be even better than those for the first quarter.

He said: "We might even see, overall, an improvement in the official mid-year forecast on output, unemployment and inflation for the rest of the year."

The employment figures show that further declines in the jobless rates were registered last month among adult males and heads of households.

These figures will widely be taken as evidence of a general improvement in the economy's health.

The actual rise in unemployment was because of sharp gains in the number of women and teenagers joining the labour force for the first time.

An exceptionally strong fall of 6.3 per cent in seasonally adjusted farm produce prices since May, gained four points in the CBI's consumer confidence index, from 89.2 in June to 93.5 in July, and its Prisons' Index measuring consumer will and wantiness to increase purchases rose by fully 11 points to 123.3.

Food and farm prices will con-

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Food and farm prices will con-



Mr Albert Booth: to examine legal views.

Employment Protection Act may be changed

By Maurice Corrigan

Editorial Industrial

Changes to the Employment Protection Act may be necessary after House of Lords opinions on Thursday that provisions for awarding compensation to employees held by industrial tribunals to be unfairly dismissed could become "a veritable rogues' charter".

Mr Booth, the Secretary of State for Employment, who has a statutory duty to keep the Act under review, is to examine the views given by five Law Lords during the course of an unsuccessful appeal by an employer, W. Davis & Sons, against a ruling of the Employment Appeal Tribunal that employers are not entitled to rely on unknown misconduct in justifying dismissal.

The Law Lords concurred with the view that employees who successfully concealed misconduct until after their dismissal might be able to obtain substantial sums.

Mr Booth and his legal advisers will be studying the law in which part of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, which spells out the criteria for determining unfair dismissals and compensation, has been amended by the Employment Protection Act.

It has been argued by employers, and now supported by the House of Lords, that Parliament could never have intended that entitlement of compensation should be automatic. The aim has been to protect employees from unfair dismissal by requiring employers to justify dismissal before tribunals, which are bound to decide cases with regard to equity and the substantial merits of the case, irrespective of regularities which are now available within Whitehall.

Whitehall has drastically altered the broad outlines of the parameters within which the Chancellor will have to act.

Forecasts prepared at the time of the Budget suggested that he could not afford to accept the Royal Commission's recommendation to hold the line on settlements in the public sector, however great or little may be the degree of understanding with the Trades Union Congress about pay policy in the economy as a whole.

The hope in Whitehall is still that the talks next week between the Chancellor and the Economic Committee of the EEC will produce some more general agreement, though the chances of that are clearly weakened by the events of the past few days.

In those talks the Chancellor will spell out some of the things which he hopes to do to improve the atmosphere, most probably by trying to limit price increases.

He is likely to reach a final decision on how much he can give away in tax cuts, either in the form of going ahead with his 2p cut in income tax or accepting the increase in personal allowances introduced in the Committee stage of the Finance Bill.

However, his room for manoeuvre is limited by the need to stay within the £370m ceiling agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

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Whitehall still hopeful of reaching agreement on inflation accounting

By Nicholas Hirst

Agreement on inflation accounting, which is acceptable both to industry and the profession, can still be worked out without major Government interference.

This is the view of senior Whitehall officials after the vote against compulsory implementation of current cost accounting by members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales at a special meeting earlier this week.

It was recognized that the accountancy profession could not be forced to implement anything for which there was inadequate support; but the Institute of Chartered Accountants vote was not seen as putting an end to any hopes of a reasonable agreement emerging.

The proposals contained in the steering group's exposure draft 18 would not become the new standard, Whitehall accepted, but a simplified version could be achieved.

The attitude of the Ireland Revenue remains important. The Revenue is not prepared to base its tax gathering on companies' account and shipping, in a written answer re-affirmed the Government's support for current cost accounting to become the basis of company accounts as soon as practicable.

The Government seems firmly behind Mr Morpeth, whose committee is moving towards a compulsory standard which may be applied to big quoted companies.

The problem of how to treat small companies is very much in the hands of the accountancy profession, to deliver an acceptable standard.

The Government still believed that this could be done for major company accounts for the period beginning January 1, 1979.

Government representatives stressed that it was still very much in the hands of the accountancy profession to deliver an acceptable standard. The Government is wedded to adjustments for depreciation and cost of sales, it is not decided on monetary terms.

But senior Whitehall sources stressed that it was still very much in the hands of the accountancy profession to deliver an acceptable standard.

Legislation on current cost accounting is seen as enabling rather than providing compulsory direction, but it would be within the Government's competence to define more closely what a "true and fair" view of companies' accounts might be.

Meanwhile, the Morpeth committee is pressing ahead with its programme of producing back-

ground papers on the submissions and alternatives which have arisen since the publication of ED 18.

Although the Accounting Standards Committee, the rule-making body of the whole profession, is implacably opposed to another exposure draft, the institute has called for, and the Government has accepted, the need for further consultation with representatives of finance and industry.

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The problem of how to treat small companies is very much in the hands of the accountancy profession, to deliver an acceptable standard.

The Government still believed that this could be done for major company accounts for the period beginning January 1, 1979.

Government representatives stressed that it was still very much in the hands of the accountancy profession to deliver an acceptable standard. The Government is wedded to adjustments for depreciation and cost of sales, it is not decided on monetary terms.

But senior Whitehall sources stressed that it was still very much in the hands of the accountancy profession to deliver an acceptable standard.

Legislation on current cost accounting is seen as enabling rather than providing compulsory direction, but it would be within the Government's competence to define more closely what a "true and fair" view of companies' accounts might be.

Meanwhile, the Morpeth committee is pressing ahead with its programme of producing back-

Ingersoll meets the digital challenge

Mr Gerald Ronson, chief executive of the Ingersoll Corporation, is planning a shake-up of the soaring British market in digital electronic watches. The vehicle for this organization that already spans motor vehicles, petrochemicals and property interests is Ingersoll, the 75-year-old British watch manufacturer.

Heron, whose main group is now fourth largest in its sector in the UK, country, has been sold for £10m at the beginning of the year in spite of a bid from the Hong Kong-based Lap Heng Company.

Ingersoll did make some first-generation electronic watches but production at its London factory has been largely mechanical watches. Now, by buying in about 90 per cent of components from Far East sources, Ingersoll is putting a complete range of electronic watches into the trade. They are mainly new generation LCDs—liquid crystal displays showing permanent read-out and the latest upmarket designs which have electronic insides and a traditional watch face with hands.

This year Mr Ronson plans to buy Ingersoll production from 500,000 to 750,000. Twenty per cent of them will be quartz-based electronics which internationally have eaten into the traditional mechanical market because they are capable of exceptional timekeeping and their price is comparatively low.

Most observers expect that by 1980 the United Kingdom watch market, worth around £200m a year in turnover at present, will be split equally between traditional mechanical watches and the new electronic types.

The other Ronson surprise is a marketing one. Ingersoll is to stay with traditional jewellers outlets for its watches, including the new electronics. Most other big digital manufacturers have been bypassing jewellers in favour of supermarkets and multiple chains.

Mr Ronson, who is putting about £500,000 into new Ingersoll promotion and at least as much again into capital investments by the European Commission, a spokesman announced today.

The news of the planned quota followed an earlier decision by the Commission to seek approval from member states for limiting such motorcycle imports from Japan to Italy. Then the Commission said it would consult with Italian authorities before deciding on the exact quota.

Earlier, Mr. Bingham argued that RTZ could not rely on privileges to avoid showing the quota of 18,000 units validly imported from Japan in 1978. It will be valid until the end of this year. He added that in 1976 a total of 20,545 such motor cycles from Japan were exported to Italy.

The measure is to replace unilateral action taken by Italy on May 27 to counter alleged official Japanese pressure on traders to curb the rapid rise of Italian ski bike exports to Japan.

The Commission also advised Italy to remove restrictions on imports of certain Japanese audio-video parts.

It is likely also to open up a new area of competition in which upmarket electronic watches, such as those from the Swiss makers and the Japanese, will be most at risk.

This must be the main aim of the Ingersoll marketing strategy because, with its relatively modest volume, it is less likely to be able to compete on anything like equal terms with makers like Trafalgar Watch.

Trafalgar is the north London-based company which claims that last year it cornered half the British market in digital watches. It has substantially expanded its domestic production, with LCD models in the shops at less than £30.

Derek Harris

Judge in RTZ case says courts could be EEC rubber stamp

By Desmond Quigley

Britain's courts could become a "rubber stamp" for the European Court, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, observed in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court had been told by Mr Brian Neil, QC, counsel for RTZ, argued that the company might circumvent itself under the Treaty article on cartels by the production of documents and books in relation to any alleged cartel.

It has been argued by employers, and now supported by the House of Lords, that Parliament could never have intended that entitlement of compensation should be automatic. The aim has been to protect employees from unfair dismissal by requiring employers to justify dismissal before tribunals, which are bound to decide cases with regard to equity and the substantial merits of the case.

Lord Denning said large British companies should be aware that, if they circumvented the article, they could have their books examined and be taken to the European Court and only at the last stage of sequestration would the British courts be involved.

"In other words, our courts would really be a rubber stamp."

The court was hearing a plea from Westinghouse that Rio Tinto-Zinc, the United Kingdom mining finance house, should be ordered to hand over certain documents relating to an alleged cartel.

No settlement was reached yesterday said that Westinghouse had offended against Article 85, demand documents and only then prove the case.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Unit trusts

Will investors renew their trust in units?

Someone once remarked that the same amount of money was always around—it was just the pockets that changed. While the observation may lack academic merit, the sentiments should appeal to many in the unit trust industry who ponder their fortunes over past and future years.

Recent figures show how dependent sales have become on the insurance-linked arm of the industry—while longer-term analyses of personal investment patterns demonstrate rather brutally how the investor's attraction for unit trusts has faded in relation to other savings media.

First quarterly figures from the Unit Trust Association and the Life Offices' Association (which show the proportion of linked life business in overall sales of units) revealed that direct net new investment in unit trusts (excluding linked business) went into an unprecedented reverse of £5m or so over the period.

Admittedly, these figures included a particularly bad month at the beginning of the year, but the increasing dominance of the insurance companies has been a feature of the industry for some time. In 1975, for instance, sales of units through insurance policies came to £69.6m out of a total of £190.3m net new investment. In 1976 it was £88.3m out of £167.5m.

The industry is not alarmed—and neither should it be—because a sale is a sale. The large management groups such as Saxe & Prosper and M & G have captive insurance companies that supply a flow of

contractual savings into units with a regularity that is dear to the average fund manager's heart. Many other groups have links with insurance companies.

But it is the concept (much lauded in the 1960s) of the unit trust as the most attractive haven for small, lump sum investment—that is now so definitely, and perhaps permanently, in eclipse.

In its share of the savings market has declined sharply. Government figures for personal financial sector show net new sales to individuals (excluding institutions) falling from £205m in 1972 to £79m in 1976.

Investors were not putting their trust in units, but over the same period building society deposits grew from £2,130m to £3,500m and sales of National Savings Certificates and Bonds went from £25m to £450m (with, it must be admitted, a few hiccups in between).

Although Hambro Life, the sister insurance company, holds about 50 per cent of his units at present, the contractual element is with Hambro Life, not the management group. He has not been in a net redemption situation. While agreeing that the general public is no longer a presence in the market he believes that there are other areas, such as funds controlled by trustees, which "can be opened up."

Despite the problems of the industry, it has attracted some fresh new blood over the past few years. Lawson Securities and Piccadilly Fund Managers are two groups that have achieved good growth in funds under management—but



Mr Edgar Palamountain, chairman of the Association of Unit Trust Managers: the industry is over the hump.

this is a function partly of their fairy-tale base.

But the few successes are being achieved by dint of a very energetic marketing approach; the industry is not going to sell on its performance.

The risk-reward ratio in stock market investment has not been encouraging; present levels are

roughly what they were five years ago. Classically, the unit holder piles in when the market starts going up—or rather when it has gone up, but fails to cash in his units at the right point in the cycle.

Some managers think that this will happen again. Others think the traditional unit-holder is wary of ever parting with his money again.

The specialist funds—the gold and commodity funds, for instance—should continue to interest the well-informed investor, who can take an educated short-term view.

Although long-term investment for capital growth has, as far as the average middle-of-the-road fund is concerned, not lived up to the promises of the 1960s boom, there have been some very real successes on the rather more sedate income front, and this is one area of growing demand—witness this week's launch of the new trustee Saving Bank Income fund.

Many managers themselves have reverted to the classical theme of income, and the object of equities is to provide steadily rising income. One fund manager went so far as to say that capital growth was a matter of supreme indifference.

But looking back at the heady days of 1968 and 1969 when a weekend newspaper advertisement once pulled in £9m for one unit trust fund, it is hard to resist the conclusion that the industry has a great future behind it.

Margaret Drummond

Investor's week

Pay worries are a damper on the market

It was the week that should have been comfortably dominated by new issues before brokers set off with their fees, for July and August holidays.

The BP issue after all had had a hot reception, given ample elbow room and United States demand was still heavy despite, or perhaps because of, being curtailed in the original issue.

The blue-blooded issuing brokers and the clutch of top merchant bankers to the Sotheby Parke-Bernet could feel happy that their homework had been done properly. And the early comment on the London & Scottish Marine Oil had been favourable.

But, as ever, best laid plans were upset by external influences. Perhaps dealers should know better than to expect an easy summer rundown in the unions' conference season, but the spectre of a shattered pay agreement rested heavily on market activity by mid-week.

The account closed last night in very thin dealing and the FT index finished at 443.7, down 5.9 or 1.3 per cent on the period overall and, by coincidence, exactly the same proportion on the week.

The level of dealing all week—reaching a screeching 5.114 marks at the Tuesday peak—was barely enough to allow any cost-conscious broking partner an easy night's sleep, but at least business in the market new-comers was heavy.

Sotheby started at a premium of only 18p to the 150p offer price, which upset the stags a little, but the shares subsequently climbed in a satisfactory manner to 169p by the close yesterday, although the big auction rival, Christies International, has weakened during Sotheby's rise to finish at 67p.

Christies had an interesting week. The existing oil production stock at 922p fluctuated as the market's reaction to the

Investment trusts

Ivory & Syme clearing the fog

The investment trust sector has experienced a number of false dawns. The smooth run up to the application was somewhat disturbed by a suggestion that the barrage of Ninian, where Lasmo holds a 9 per cent stake, was not quite as good as independent surveys had suggested.

Did some funds, harried by the miners' and TGWU members' claims, back out at the last moment?

None the less, the issue has been oversubscribed nine times, which is probably all that a group without forecast or immediate dividend might reasonably expect.

For the rest, it was a question of chase the rumour. Redearn National Glass must rate as the week's best jobbing stock. Its price gyrated wildly every day as rumours spread, died down, only to flare into life again before finally dropping.

Butterfield Harvey, at 60p, received an unwanted approach from Babcock & Wilcox and Fodens went into a short sprint yesterday to 55p as time ran out on the contested Rolls-Royce bid.

Speculators got their teeth into LEP Group and refused to let go, despite strong boardroom demands that the offer was under consideration. Furness Withy sank, however, as hopes of an attack by a bidder taking up the Eurocanadian stake gradually faded.

Profit reports from the blue chips had little impact on leader sentiment. Thorn "A" were barely changed after somewhat better than forecast results, although Rothmans International managed to hold steady on Thursday in what turned out to be a very difficult week for tobacco stocks.

Hawker probably held the big stock spotlight. After some intermittent selling the shares closed the week firmly at 68p ahead of Monday's share split.

Ray Maughan

asset, rather than market value, adding 3p and 7p to the net asset value respectively.

Now you see it, now you don't. A number of investment trust observers regard this as nothing more than an accounting manoeuvre—if either of the trusts wished to liquidate their GBC holdings they would have to do so on the basis of market—not asset values.

Ivory & Syme's defence is that it removes the "fog factor" as far as the investment trust shareholders are concerned, while facilitating the use of GBC as an investment vehicle.

The terms of the merger between Cable and Globe, two trusts in the Electra House stable, eliminate some £52m of cross holdings. Like the Ivory & Syme arrangement, the merger does nothing to resolve the basic market problem of an oversupply of investment trust shares, because the cross holdings were firmly held. But it does resolve some worries that part, maybe all, of the shares would be floated out after the revival in investment trust share prices a few months ago.

The merger, however, will eliminate the double discount for Cable and Globe shareholders accounted for by holdings in the Stockholders' Investment Trust and Texland, a United States unlisted oil exploration group. Shareholders are being offered 65.5p worth of Stockholders shares per London & Aberdeen share plus 24.2p cash from the realization of other quoted investments.

Under the terms of the merger, the smaller outlets were cheapest for beds, furniture and fabrics, but were most expensive for consumer electronics, clothing, hardware and groceries.

Average discounts at outlets, including the discount houses, ranged between 28 per cent and 1 per cent, with clothing and footwear the least discounted.

But prices for specific items could vary widely whether RRP was used as a benchmark or not, although the study concentrated on those involving recommended prices or prices suggested by trade guides. In general, "own brand" products were excluded from the study.

The commission particularly singles out beds as a sector in which there appear to be not

	AVERAGE DISCOUNTS FROM RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES (%)				
	Co-op	Discount houses	Dept stores	Multiple specialists	Independent dealers
Photographic goods	5	14	9	8	8
Consumer electronics	22	28	23	23	19
Carpets	20	23	25	18	21
Beds	11	25	15	15	18
Kitchen furniture	12	17	16	9	12
Living room furniture	5	16	7	3	9
Fabrics	7	—	6	8	14
Clothing	5	—	1	2	1
Footwear	1	4	2	2	1
Hardware	21	31	16	20	13
Groceries	12	18	10	12	10
Spirits	14	—	8	11	10
Toboggans	16	26	16	12	13
ALL SECTORS	12	20	12	11	12
Unweighted					

Shopping around in the prices jungle

Abandon of almost all retail price maintenance in 1964 stimulated competition and brought down prices. But recommended retail prices (RRPs) or their equivalent—like manufacturer's suggested prices or trade or public guide prices—more or less took over the role of structuring the market.

Now the Price Commission's admirable if necessarily complex report on RRP, out this week, gives fresh interest to the question of how far it is worth shopping around in the prices jungle.

It might well be the case that some firms like Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to draw conclusions and jump in with reforms. But there is a lot of useful information for the shopper.

Nevertheless, RRP is still disappearing, as also consumer "brown" electronic (almost entirely) goods ("white" goods—increasingly found in some fields there is a big difference in prices of goods whether a firm is under RRP or free).

Department stores were best for recommended retail or similar public bands that they meet many apparent yearning for a sort of signpost in the jungle.

Independent stores, usually the smaller outlets, were cheapest for beds, furniture and fabrics, but were most expensive for consumer electronics, clothing, hardware and groceries.

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only large differences in recommended retail prices between a variety of discounters. The report concludes that some RRP sectors are varied and be taken as reliable yardstick of quality."

Double pricing—where a recommended price is equivalent to a manufacturer's suggested price—was pitch high in making the discounters more obviously in need of early attention by the commission.

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The overall conclusion is that it must have been the imposition of many shop that is generally speaking though money may be saved particular items by shopping around, not many types of let give better value than others. The exception discount houses or markets—provided there is near by, which in the particular case is not the case.

* * * * * Recommended Retail Price MSRP £22.25.

Commissioner: Clothing: Gordan's, £3.50; Ferrero, £2.45; Guiness, £5.50 to £5.51; Jaeger cardigan, £39.50.

Fabrics: Dorma, £14.75 to £15.15; Osman, £28.75 to £29.15; Christy, £22.55 to £23.15; £1.45;

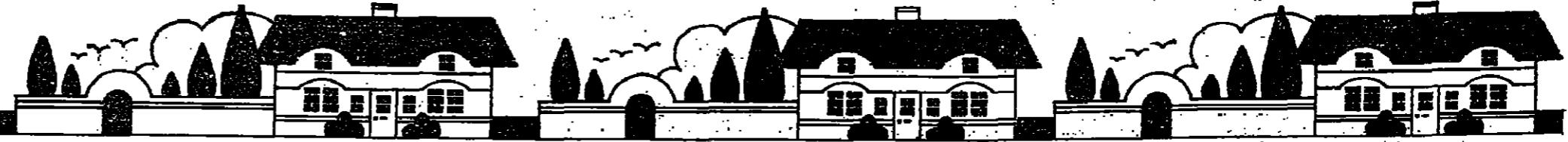
Stock Exchange Prices

A trickle of buying

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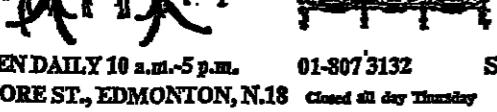
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Trade Enquiries

HOME EXTRA



Left: Crab, with spoon, £1.350; Boxes by Jocelyn Burton, with shells £120, small boxes £65 (both exclusive of VAT). Right: Pearl Goblet (back) by Jocelyn Burton, £600, exclusive of VAT.

Two goblets by William Phipps, £125 each, dessert spoons, £53.80 each, large spoon £130.

Photographs by Trevor Sutton

now—but there's still a commission for a goblet with dolphin motif.

The delicate, beautiful working drawings seem too fragile to be made up in metal. The designs for a set of cutlery have been occupying her mind for longer, and now questions of design, technique, and production. She teaches at the Royal College of Art, and is amazed at the number of talented people working in silver who come from the art colleges each year. She hopes it will encourage people to approach the artist and have an original piece made, a greater and more personal pleasure than wading into a shop.

Cutlery is one of William

Phipps' specialities. Climbing up to his workshop in the traditional area in London, on the unpainted floor of a battered building in Clerkenwell, there are the anvils, the hammers, the coils of wire, darts, vices, flames. For the past 17 years he has been making domestic silverware, goblets, boxes and particularly, spoons. Spoons at love objects have never, I must confess, entered my life before, but love at first sight it was. Shown here are two goblets, hand raised with chased stems and a collection of table spoons. He showed me how to put in the "rat tail" at the back—each one hand forged and finished as an individual piece.

There's a great sensual satisfaction in holding a really heavy silver knife and fork in your hands—even take-away

anything would taste better—and once into Asprey's it is definitely an embarrassment of choice. My eye fell on two contrasting sets of fine silver table

ware. Renaissance Espagnole with its elegant detailing and Embassy, a modern design by David Mellor for our embassies abroad, for high

days and holidays, I'm sure.

On the wider market level,

Viners have some very pretty

reproduction designs, and I liked their "Age of Scandal"

range in silver plate—each

piece has its own story, they are all reproduction of old

designs, and none the worse for

that. I particularly liked the Selwyn Sisters' flambeau (£3.50 each) and Lord Rokeby's squirrel dish—one squirrel size £6.75, two squirrels £9.

One moan from everyone in the silver world is the delay in getting the pieces hallmarked. It used to take a day—now, with the special Jubilee hallmark and everyone working flat out, it takes three weeks, a month, or even more. Goldsmith's Hall is working flat out, too, at total capacity—So they'll just have to bear with us—they said rather plaintively—there is no relief in sight for anyone in fact, it may well get worse.

There are three splendid exhibitions new on for the lover of fine silver—two at the Design Centre, where Brian and Barbara Asquith's silver and jewelry is on show until July 30 and so are the prizewinners of the Johnson

Mathey Silver Awards for the past two years. And at Goldsmith's Hall itself, Foster Lane EC2 is an exhibition called Loot, with silver and jewelry from £1 to £100, until July 16.

Now I come to think of it, the

first Loot exhibition was only two years ago, and it was under £50—up 100 per cent in two years? Might I suggest to an entrepreneur of vision and enterprise that we, as well as Greece, Africa and the Arab countries, are a market ripe for men, women and child and you make a killing, as the phrase goes.

Philippa Toomey

Jocelyn Burton: 50c Red Lion Street, WC1. William Phipps, c/o Crafts Advisory Committee, 12 Waterloo Place, SW1.



silver, but I don't own anything in silver. A collection of pieces known as the Electro-Plate is the best—amassed over the past years for qualities quite apart from beauty, use or cost (every piece had to be under £1). Each had to be different, presented with a brazen inscription—Valparaiso Cricket Club: Valparaiso Cricket Sports 1879, for example, as if in a high wind.

DPRC presented by the Master of Peasants' Church and Upminster carefully engraved, crooked, nestling amid buds of leaves and roses. The most sensible piece of silver I have seen in a long time, I have adapted to the times we live, were the silver beads on a fine silver chain (a present from Sandie) belonging to Captain Pavlos Zaraloudis. Armed with these, he manoeuvred the Orpheus around the Mediterranean, regardless of strikes in Naples, weather conditions and the vagaries of the passengers, exactly on time. The silver beads set off a meditation on silver—you can't get them here. We did some in onyx, said Collingswood—and in precious stones, said Asprey, but silver—no.

And so I went to see two artists-craftsmen in the world of silver. First to Jocelyn Burton, whose work I have long admired. Shown here are three boxes with the sea motifs for which she is well known, and a delicate, lidded goblet, with pearls as peas inside the silver pots. It is a curious life; once you have made a piece that everyone loves, your clients want you to go on making more to do—she is concentrating on plant rather than sea forms

She has been making beautiful pieces, he manoeuvred the Orpheus around the Mediterranean, regardless of strikes in Naples, weather conditions and the vagaries of the passengers, exactly on time. The silver beads set off a meditation on silver—you can't get them here. We did some in onyx, said Collingswood—and in precious stones, said Asprey, but silver—no.

Then there were six marching whiskey tumblers, a limited edition of 1,000 goblets for St Paul's sold out on the first day and a limited edition for the Fitzwilliam Museum as well.

There is a creative tension between producing what people want to do and what you would like to do—she is concentrating on

plant rather than sea forms

in the autumn which he is attending and taking the spoon with him. Part of the fun is they all have a very traditional-craftsman-like name. Like Jocelyn Burton, he works almost entirely for private commissions, though Liberty sells the spoons. Any jewelry? Well, a crucifix for the Pope—though his patron was Madame Tussaud. As an enthusiastic player of the piccolo for the Fulham Municipal Orchestra, as a side line he also makes silver flute head joints for a dealer, who will take all he can make. He keeps off teaching if he can ("a real headache—asking all those questions and I never knew the answers") and shares his workshop with Contra-Bassoon, otherwise Dominic Weir of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, inventor of the Weir machine for making reeds for bassoons and repairer of things that no one else will touch—in his case at the moment is a very battered Victorian ophicleide, belonging to a member of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble.

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ware. Renaissance Espagnole with its elegant detailing and Embassy, a modern design by David Mellor for our embassies abroad, for high

days and holidays, I'm sure.

Waste not, want not: every time a set is sold the Department of the Environment gets a royalty. Cabinets for your silver are made to order and the prices remind me of Dora Bryan, in a revue long ago conformed by the price of a dozen oysters and saying "I'll have one". Renaissance: knife £40, fork £61, dessert spoon £46. Embassy: knife £37.50, fork £40.68, dessert spoon £32.31. As a fantasy in silver, the crab (also from Asprey) is for serving caviar, with its own spoon, and I owned it. I'd have caviar every day for breakfast.

On the wider market level,

Viners have some very pretty

reproduction designs, and I liked their "Age of Scandal"

range in silver plate—each

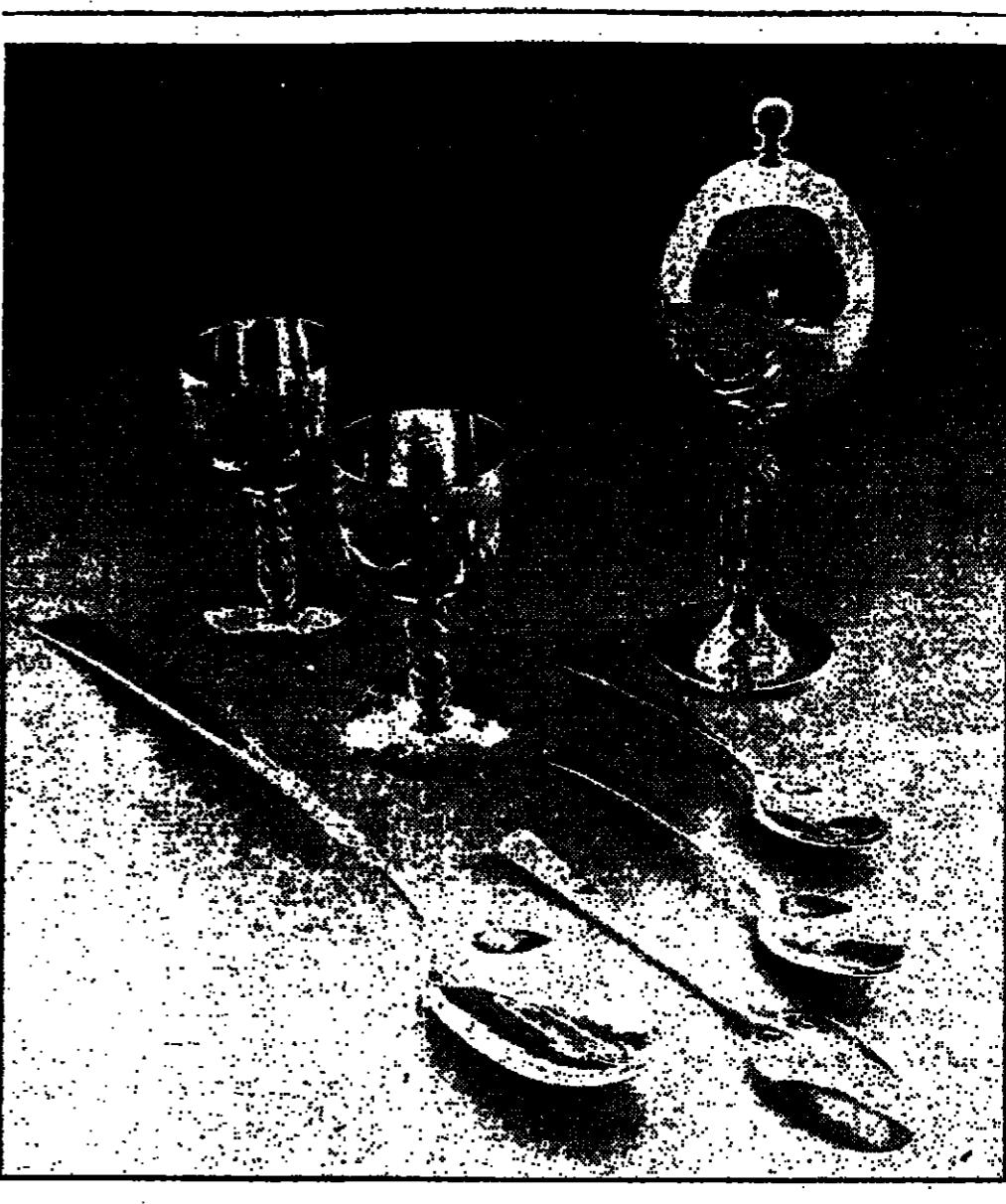
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designs, and none the worse for

that. I particularly liked the Selwyn Sisters' flambeau (£3.50 each) and Lord Rokeby's squirrel dish—one squirrel size £6.75, two squirrels £9.

One moan from everyone in the silver world is the delay in getting the pieces hallmarked. It used to take a day—now, with the special Jubilee hallmark and everyone working flat out, it takes three weeks, a month, or even more. Goldsmith's Hall is working flat out, too, at total capacity—So they'll just have to bear with us—they said rather plaintively—there is no relief in sight for anyone in fact, it may well get worse.

There are three splendid exhibitions new on for the lover of fine silver—two at the Design Centre, where Brian and Barbara Asquith's silver and jewelry is on show until July 30 and so are the prizewinners of the Johnson

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